Exemption given to scientific departments from the purview of UPSC

3055. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently exempted scientific departments from purview of UPSC to give a free hand to the Secretaries of the Scientific Departments in recruitment of Group 'A' officers;

(b) whether the exemption given to Secretaries of the scientific departments is not being wrongly utilised by recruiting the departmental candidates in higher posts when they were not yet due for promotion; and

(c) what is the number of candidates recruited from outside as against the departmental candidates promoted on higher posts after the exemption from UPSC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) By a Notification No. 39018|2|86-Estt. (B) dated 1.4.87 issued by the Department of Personnel & Training, certain categories of Group 'A' scientific posts under the Ministry of Science & Technology, Department of Ocean Development, Department of Non-conventional Energy Sources and Department of Environment, Forests & Wild Life have been exempted from the purview of the UPSC.

(b) Recruitment to the exempted categories of posts is made in accordance with the rules made for the purpose.

(c) Out of a total of 148 candidates recommended for appointment so far, 51 are departmental candidates and the remaining are from outside.

Radiation Leakage at the Tarapur Atomic Plant

3056. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any radiation leak at the Tarapur Atomic Power Station in the first week of October, 1988;

(b) if so, what were the reasons therefor; and

(c) what were the effects of radiation leak on the people in the vicinity of the reaction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Death of Children in Maharashtra

3057. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of twelve children having died of a mysterious disease in October, 1988 at Khapari village of Maregaon Tehsil in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Village Khapari of Maregaon Tehsil, District Yeotmal in Maharashtra has been visited by District level officers and officers from state Directorate of Health Services, including a team of T.B. Specialists. The cause of death of twelve children has been ascertained as post measles infections, diarrhoea and malnutrition. Measles vaccination programme has been started in this district from the current year. The village is also covered under I.C.D.S. Scheme and Nutrition Programme is going on.